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August 16, 2010

Mr. Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of CSXT, Inc., I am writing to express our support for the City of Baltimore's TIGER II grant application for the Westport Waterfront Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). We believe that the proposed grant meets many of the criteria for award, especially with regard to CSXT's interests in the Westport area. Please consider the following:

Safety and Livability: The Westport TIGER II application incorporates several features which will improve safety for pedestrians, vehicles and trains relative to our freight operations. These include closure of an existing at-grade rail crossing, substantial safety improvements at other at-grade rail crossings and fencing to separate the Gwynns Falls shared use trail from our freight line. A new elevated bridge will enable pedestrians to access the light rail station from the TOD without traversing our tracks. The bridge will provide a dedicated and handicap accessible pedestrian route between the existing Westport community, the station and the TOD. From CSXT's perspective, the worst possible outcome of this project would be for area residents and workers to walk along or across our tracks in order to access the new housing, offices, shops and hotels in the TOD.

Leveraging of Public and Private Investments: As part of our *Trees for Tracks* program, CSXT partnered with the Parks and People Foundation and Westport Community Partnerships to plant more than 50 trees at the Indiana Street Playground in Westport. We look forward to additional opportunities to aid in the revitalization of the Westport community.

Ready to Implement: CSXT, Inc. is committed to working with the City of Baltimore, the Maryland Transit Administration, and the Westport Waterfront development team to resolve any outstanding issues which would delay the timely implementation of this important project. Implementation would be subject to CSXT's review and approval to ensure our freight operations are not adversely impacted and the final design is safe for both railroad operations and pedestrians.

Thank you for your consideration of the Westport Waterfront TIGER II application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon A. Daboin".

Sharon A. Daboin
Resident Vice President – MD State Government & Community Affairs

